Transit-Times

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MAY 1977

It's Sunshine Tour Season
Oakland Raiders Phil Villapiano and Otis Sistrunk have been AC Transit's "ambassadors of good bus riding behavior" to East Bay school children for about five years. In a program called "Project Linebacker", they have visited with and shown football films to thousands of youngsters, many of whom have responded afterwards with letters. A few are shown here, mostly condensed but with original spelling and grammatical intent fully intact!

When you really play you play hard and good. Drink milk and don't eat a lot of sweets or your muscles with fall asleep and so will you.
Tell Kenny I said hi. Say hello to Blinnikoff too.
I want to see your team win the 77's world series.

Alan
Mira Vista School
Richmond

I watched the Super Bowl and I thought it was great. My dad is a big fan of yours. My dad skipped a day of work just to watch the Super Bowl.
Do you like Fran Tarkington? He looks kind of small. How can he tackle anybody? Does he ask his mother to help him tackle on of you?

Jean
Mira Vista School
Richmond

I told my mother, brother, and grandmother I saw Mr. Sistrunk. David, my brother, said no you didn't. I called my friend, and he asked her if I did. David said what does he look like? I said, you are a fool, he looked like he is on TV.

Cathy J. H.
John Marshall School
Oakland

I wanted to ask you a question when I was at the auditorium. When you play football and you be running and tackling people and then you have to use the bathroom, what do you do?

Michelle Stanton
Mira Vista School
Richmond

I hope you know that my name is Vance and my daddys name is Chile. I hope the raiders when.
And I hope you make a lot of touchdowns. If mean Joe breks your nose I would brake his nose.
I love to play football. So does my daddy. My dad works on the A.C transit.
I know your going to when the super bol.

Vance
John Marshall School
Oakland

Thank you for coming to our school. My family has been Raider fans for a long time! The movie was really great! Our whole class were yelling all through the film. I seen 3/4 of the film, the rest of the time I was in the office.

Chris Bettencourt
Ashland School
San Leandro

Lines 380, 381, and 382 — plus information relating to the existing BART Express P. Line.
Other marketing efforts have included preparation of posters bearing the slogan, "Try Tri-Delta Transit", for area-wide posting by chambers of commerce; printing of signs for display on the outside of buses; establishment of a toll-free number for service information; distribution of newspaper publicity; and planning for opening-day ceremonies. To acquaint residents with the new system, rides will be free June 6-10 on Lines 380, 381, and 382.

In another development relating to the new service, the way was cleared at the May 11 Board of Directors meeting for seeking a $591,130 federal grant to cover purchase of five advance design buses to serve East Contra Costa riders. The grant would also cover spare units and bus shelters.

Funding for remaining capital requirements, will be sought through a separate grant application. Surplus buses are being used in the initiation of service.
Mini-models

Yes, they’re smaller
But the ride is fine

More AC Transit riders are becoming familiar with the new heavy small bus now that all 29 vehicles ordered by the District either have arrived or are expected by the end of the month.

Twenty-two of the new buses are available for neighborhood service in Fremont and Newark, where Dial-A-Ride and commuter Mini-Route customers already are familiar with their features.

Four small buses were scheduled to be phased into Country Coach service in Orinda and Moraga, in Contra Costa county, by the end of May, and two others into operation in Pleasant Hill June 6.


A city map, a copying machine, colored inks and Tim Taylor's creativity combined to produce a new and comprehensive guide to public transportation in Berkeley.

Taylor claims his new "modular" maps, each depicting a different AC Transit bus route, eliminates a source of confusion because there is no over-laying where different routes may happen to coincide.

Seven small maps of AC Transit service in Berkeley are posted with a larger city map that gives street names and the connections to BART.

Taylor says his concept was used with success within the confines of the University of California campus, where he operates shuttle bus services.

The expanded, city-wide guide is in use in cooperation with AC Transit on bus shelters at Center St. and Shattuck Ave. and on Bancroft Way outside the U.C. Student Union. Both shelters also have the regular AC Transit route map and schedules of bus departure times.

Drivers meet safety goal

All divisions met April's safe driving goal of 13,250 miles of accident-free driving. Newark had 18,764 miles per accident; Seminary, 14,229; Emeryville, 14,187; Richmond, 13,920.

CAKE AND KUDOS — L. L. McDonald, superintendent, accepts a framed citation honoring Newark Division's 18-month string of safe-driving victories from General Manager Alan L. Bingham. Division drivers earned the honors, and the accompanying cake and ice cream refreshments, by beating Seminary Division's previous record for 17 consecutive months of beating established goals for safe driving.

Responses in from
Citizens seeking
Board appointment

Letters of interest from 74 persons desiring appointment to the Board of Directors were received this month and were being processed prior to board action in filling the two vacant posts.

The At-Large vacancy will be filled from within AC Transit's boundaries covering Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont, Richmond, San Leandro, San Pablo, and the unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley, El Sobrante, San Lorenzo, and Kensington.

The Ward 5 seat will go to a person from the cities of Hayward, Fremont-Newark, or adjacent unincorporated areas within Alameda County.

Appointees to the posts will serve until January, 1979, yielding the directorships to candidates chosen in the November, 1978, General Election.

The vacancies occurred as a result of last month's resignations of Kimiko "Kimi" Fujii, a director since 1972, and Chester C. McGuire, Jr., on the board since 1975.

Paychecks at AC Transit are reflecting an increase in the cost of living this month, in keeping with the District's contract with Division 192, Amalgamated Transit Union.

The adjustment amounts to pay hikes of up to 17 cents an hour for the drivers, effective April 24. Other salaried employees are receiving similar increases in their pay.

Changes in the government's Cost-of-Living Index are the basis for the adjustments, which have occurred 23 times since the program was initiated in January, 1969.
The word "purchases" means, to most of us, buying groceries, clothing, and household necessities, plus occasional "big ticket" items such as major appliances, a car, or a house. Likewise, the word "stores", to the average person, means Macy's or the supermarket.

To professionals like John Krajcar, manager of purchases and stores, and his department of 26 people at Emeryville Division, "purchases" means everything from buying 6-1/2 million gallons of diesel fuel a year to keep the District's fleet of buses running to buying paper clips and other supplies to keep the flow of office-work moving. The department issues about 150 purchase orders each week.

To Krajcar, "stores" means the approximately 10,000 items currently on hand at the main storeroom in Emeryville and in the three smaller "satellite" storerooms at Richmond, Seminary, and Newark Divisions.

Current inventory, including all parts, materials, fuels, and lubricants is worth about $550,000; and, says Krajcar, this is "turned over" about ten times a year.

**Department duties**

In defining his responsibilities, Krajcar — whose staff includes Pete Thome, assistant manager, George Akers, supervisor of stores, and two buyers — says that purchasing entails being "responsible for all materials and supply services required by the District, including handling bid specifications for all major equipment contracts, selling used surplus property, and leasing bus tires."

The latter is necessary, he explains, because bus tires represent an "investment so great, with servicing requirements so demanding, that the District feels it is more cost-effective to lease."

Besides purchasing fuels, lubricants, and building/office/medical supplies, the department's buyers are also in the "rag" (clothing) business, for they purchase uniforms for AC Transit's force of more than 1,400 drivers — slacks for women, trousers for men in two different fabric weights, and uniform shirts in both short and long sleeve styles.

This buying requirement adds up to two pairs of slacks/trousers and four shirts per year for each driver. Less stylish, but just as essential, are the coveralls and coats purchased for Maintenance workers.

Besides goods, services must be purchased: the outside specialists who repair the office equipment, maintain the fire extinguishers, and clean (or launder) everything from shop towels to the "sumps" in the steam and wash racks in the maintenance facilities.

The stores function, explains Krajcar, involves "receiving, shipping, warehousing, and delivery of all materials commonly used", ranging from engine and body repair parts to paper towels. And this stock is continually growing with expansion of service and acquisition of new buses requiring special components, such as the mini-buses now in use and the fleet of 30 articulated buses scheduled to go into service in 1978.

"Because of the wide variety of our vehicles, the department is expected to grow considerably in the next few years," Krajcar said.

**Inventory control**

Keeping track of stock on hand is accomplished with the aid of a computerized inventory control system in use since 1968. Future plans call for an in-house computer system to take over this task, providing greater capability and faster retrieval of fresher inventory data.

Another function of the department is printing major quantities of in-house forms and other materials, which are run off on a Model 1250 Multilith press.

A tour through the main store room gives a vivid indication both of the range and quantity of items in stock. Body parts, brake linings, and building supplies are kept on hand. A mezzanine area stores hundreds of boxes of other materials, including a recent shipment of 20 million transfers! Arrayed in a corner are rows of fare-boxes — some shiny with chrome-plating; others, with marred, flaky paint, waiting to be sent out to be plated.

In addition, outside storage areas are used to shelter larger or less-often-needed items, such as boxes of specially-cut, curved windshield glass, stacks of bumpers, and bolts of seat-cover material.

A program of security measures protect the stock in all locations.

Krajcar is a veteran of 31 years in transit.
Customer Services Relocate for ease Of bus patron use

East Bay bus riders will find a wide variety of services consolidated at a single counter in AC Transit’s new Customer Services office, located in downtown Oakland.

The new lobby office in the Latham Square Building at 16th Street and Telegraph Avenue handles requests for information and lost-and-found articles.

Bus schedules, route maps and brochures describing special District services are obtainable from a new revolving information stand in the lobby.

Tokens and bus tickets are on sale in the office.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays of each week, senior citizens (65 years and older) and handicapped riders may obtain Bay Region Transit Discount Cards at the same location. The cards identify patrons eligible for reduced rates on Bay Area public transit systems.

Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Lou Bailey promoted By Richmond Reserves

If you run into Lou Bailey on the job in the Charter Department, Emeryville, call him “Captain Bailey.”

He’s been entitled to the title since April 7 when he was promoted by the Richmond Police Reserves, which he joined in 1957. The promotion from Reserve Lieutenant — his rank since 1975 — puts Lou in charge of the activities of between 30 and 45 reserve officers: administrative duties, training, discipline, financial.

According to Captain Bailey, who currently spends about 35 hours a month on reserve duties, the Richmond para-professionals perform standard police functions — everything from investigating family fights to crowd control to traffic to stolen bikes. Two of the reserves do regular patrol duty every Friday and Saturday nights. But they are sometimes out in force, as needed.

Richmond Reserves complete 200 hours of training, including a 40-hour state-required course, 30 hours with the force’s regular training officers, and the rest within the reserve unit itself.

In addition to other department duties, Lou regularly conducts 45-minute tours for school children through the Emeryville facility, giving a behind-the-scenes view for young transit users.

He joined Key System Transit Lines in 1954 as a driver, later becoming union business agent and president of the local before joining AC Transit’s Charter Dept. in 1967.

For the Baileys, in fact, AC Transit is very much a family affair: Lou’s wife Helen, and son-in-law, Roger Cottle, also work in the Transportation Dept; and his son, David, is in the Maintenance Dept.
New system

**Computers aid in bus contact**

AC Transit radio dispatchers are going to be in constant contact with every bus in the fleet, even if the drivers are too busy to engage in conversation.

A new communications system authorized by the District's Board of Directors will rely on mini-computers to do much of the routine communicating.

When the system is in place, the computers will make contact with digital logic units in the 800 buses every seven minutes.

On TV-like display screens, the computers will produce a constant roster of all assigned route numbers and schedules; even the “not in service” buses will be included.

The drivers will encode the units in the buses and subsequent identification — during both verbal contact and the silent, computerized radio communication — will be automatic.

Eventually, the system could be able to report actual vehicle locations, accurately to within a few hundred feet. It will be able to count passengers, compile fare box and vehicle mileage statistics, even check on adherence to schedules.

The District's Directors awarded a $2,491,374 contract to Motorola for the system. Mobile Radio Engineers, a local Motorola distributor, was awarded a $20,917.75 contract to furnish the parts that will make 375 of the District's current radios compatible with the new system.

The new radio network will operate on eight channels (with provision to add two more if need be) broadcasting from four sites around the Bay Area.

The contract calls for the new equipment to be in place in one year, and for the system to be operating in six months more.

**Pleasant Hill and Concord residents are riding buses in increasing numbers, accounting for the largest percentage growth among AC Transit contract services.**

Pleasant Hill passenger trips totaled 12,924 in March, 1977, an increase of 39.9 percent over the 9,239 who rode in March, 1976. Bus service in Pleasant Hill was inaugurated December 8, 1975, and 6,966 passenger trips were recorded in January, 1976, first full month of service.

 Ridership figures in Concord in March totaled 55,335, up 30 percent over the 42,573 who rode in March, 1976. Concord service started Sept. 8, 1975 and 36,426 rode in October, 1975, first full month of service.

**Driver and three pensioners meet deaths**

The deaths of one employee and three pensioners have been reported.

**Brian J. Finnegan,** 71, a driver at Seminary Division, died on May 4 in Oakland. He had been employed since July 19, 1976.

Funeral mass was held on May 7 at Our Lady of Grace Church in Castro Valley, where Finnegan lived. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Hayward.

He is survived by his father, James J. Finnegan.

**James T. Hall,** 79, who retired as a driver in 1963, died of a heart attack in Oakland March 24. His employment dated from 1941. Survivors include his widow, Myrtle, and children: Gloria, Barbara, and James.  

**Dudley S. Williams,** 63, a painter at Emeryville Division before his retirement in 1973, died of pneumonia on March 21 in Grants Pass, Ore., and was buried in Golden Gate National Cemetery, San Bruno. His employment dated from 1947. He leaves his widow, E. Lee, and a son, Frank.

**Earl J. Ryan,** 71, who retired in 1967 after 26 years as a motor coach operator, died in Kelseyville on April 6. Burial was at Oakmont Cemetery, Lafayette. Before retirement, he worked at Emeryville Division. He is survived by his widow, Annie B., and five children: Raymond, Alvin, Colleen, Jeannine, and Gretchen.

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**Passenger Trips**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>March 1977</th>
<th>March 1976</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Bay</td>
<td>4,119,638</td>
<td>4,060,506</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transbay</td>
<td>1,287,587</td>
<td>1,253,565</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fremont/Newark</td>
<td>111,665</td>
<td>83,885</td>
<td>33.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BART</td>
<td>100,938</td>
<td>85,972</td>
<td>26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>55,335</td>
<td>42,573</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasant Hill</td>
<td>12,924</td>
<td>9,239</td>
<td>39.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moraga/Orinda*</td>
<td>11,158</td>
<td>7,900</td>
<td>42.2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>5,707,365</td>
<td>5,535,740</td>
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**Fare Revenue**

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<th>Route</th>
<th>March 1977</th>
<th>March 1976</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Bay</td>
<td>$783,455</td>
<td>$762,783</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transbay</td>
<td>661,581</td>
<td>647,212</td>
<td>2.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fremont/Newark</td>
<td>20,543</td>
<td>15,357</td>
<td>33.8</td>
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<td><strong>Contract Services:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BART</td>
<td>34,996</td>
<td>28,117</td>
<td>24.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>9,673</td>
<td>6,647</td>
<td>45.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pleasant Hill</td>
<td>1,776</td>
<td>1,433</td>
<td>26.6</td>
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<td>Moraga/Orinda*</td>
<td>1,681</td>
<td>1,185</td>
<td>42.7</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$1,513,705</td>
<td>$1,461,519</td>
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**Service Miles**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>March 1977</th>
<th>March 1976</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Bay</td>
<td>1,489,317</td>
<td>1,486,896</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transbay</td>
<td>851,453</td>
<td>857,359</td>
<td>0.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fremont/Newark</td>
<td>126,793</td>
<td>123,375</td>
<td>2.8</td>
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<td><strong>Contract Services:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BART</td>
<td>147,560</td>
<td>142,924</td>
<td>3.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>47,642</td>
<td>41,382</td>
<td>15.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pleasant Hill</td>
<td>10,846</td>
<td>10,419</td>
<td>4.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moraga/Orinda*</td>
<td>16,495</td>
<td>12,085</td>
<td>36.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2,690,106</td>
<td>2,612,255</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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</table>

*Contract service in Moraga/Orinda inaugurated Sept. 13, 1976

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**March Financial Report**

Total operating expense, including interest on bonded debt and principal on bonded debt, for March, 1977 was $4,724,697 while operating income was $1,782,918. Total income, including subsidies from property taxes, sales taxes and Federal aid, amounted to $4,516,730 and left a deficit of $207,967 in meeting full bond debt requirements and operating costs.

Contract services are being paid for by the communities involved.

Nationally, the transit industry showed an increase of 2.47 percent in total passengers carried.
At an adjourned regular meeting April 27, the Board of Directors:

- Awarded contract to Motorola Communications & Electronics for furnishing two-way mobile radio equipment, subject to compliance with specifications, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Awarded contract to Mobile Radio Engineers for furnishing radio parts, subject to compliance with specifications, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Awarded contract to General Motors Corporation for furnishing 66 Advance Design buses, subject to UMTA audit of bid price and to compliance with change order for handicapped lifts, if desired by the District, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Adopted letter to People's Republic of China introducing Director Nakadegawa and expressing friendship, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized retitling and/or updating job descriptions of six positions, abolishing three positions, and creating four positions in the Finance Department, on motion of Director Berk.
- Authorized continuation of the services of Arthur Young and Company through the audit of fiscal year ending June 30, 1978, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized Director Nakadegawa to attend conference on para-transit at University of California, Berkeley, on motion of Director Rinehart.

At a regular meeting May 11, the Board of Directors:

- Authorized leasing three additional buses on weekends to Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District, on motion of Director Nakadegawa.
- Adopted resolution authorizing filing amendment to UMTA grant to aid in financing 66 advance design buses and implementation costs of FARE, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Authorized General Manager to advertise and seek bids for purchase of office furniture and equipment, subject to UMTA approval, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Approved purchase of 10 precast concrete benches, on motion of Director Rinehart.
- Approved minor reroute of Line 12 in Oakland Army Base, on motion of Director Rinehart.